









month's hard labour, and the other twelve, \$1 each, with the alternative of three days' hard labour.

There is a nasty story, which seems only too true, in circulation in connection with the Shanghai Races. The sudden sickness which incapacitated Mr. Sassoon's Red Grouse on the second day and made it break down in a race in which there were heavy odds to its winning, has created some sensation, and rumours are afloat to the effect that there has been some foul play in the matter. It was observed that the pony, which was in fine 'fettle' on the first day and had carried off the Criterion Stakes, on being brought out next day for the Shanghai Stakes, showed distressing symptoms of illness, and, although starting fairly, drew up before the goal was reached and could not be got even to enter. It is further said that when the pony was taken to the stables it reeled about, and that a veterinary surgeon had to be sent for. The opinion of the surgeon, judging from the symptoms of the animal, was that opium or some narcotic had been administered to it; and this suspicion, we learn, was so far confirmed by the recovery of the pony in about three days, the usual time during which the effect of a strong dose of opium lasts. This is not the first time that such suspicious circumstances have occurred at a race meeting; and we believe the stewards of the course are making strict inquiries into the affair. It is to be hoped that if anyone is found to have been guilty of the mean trick of drugging a rival's horse, the stewards will not scruple to make an example of the culprit.

It is hard, indeed, to form any correct estimate of the present condition of affairs in Greece, which, ostensibly, has at last had the temerity to bid defiance to the united Great Powers of Europe, any one of which is by itself fully qualified to enforce obedience from the ill-advised and headstrong Greece. We say ostensibly, because the collective note calling upon Greece to disarm was signed by all the Great Powers; and her refusal to comply with the request therefore looks as if she were snapping her fingers in defiance of the European world. We cannot help thinking, however, that actually her attitude is less universally defiant than it looks. Ever since this difficulty with Greece arose there have not been wanting those who have openly declared in unmeasured terms that notwithstanding official assurances to the contrary, the Hellenic Kingdom was receiving not only secret support and encouragement from Russia but that indirectly she had the approval of France. The suspicious holding-back of the French and Russian Ministers in the general exodus of the foreign representatives to Greece seem to confirm these declarations in an unmistakable manner, and give rise to most uncomfortable forebodings. The unity which would have effected what was generally considered most advisable, the holding of Greece in check, would seem never to have existed. Of course, as yet this only seems to be the case, and it may be premature to suggest that unless either of the sides sacrifice their dignity and reputation, there will be a serious rupture. Meantime, the allied fleets have no doubt arrived in Greek waters, and if there be any serious intention of Russia and France to withdraw from the alliance it will soon become apparent. The portion of the question most difficult to understand is, perhaps, the ministerial deadlock which has just arisen. The resignation of M. Deliyannis' Ministry, the refusal of the King at first to accept it, its ultimate acceptance, and Mr. Trikoupi's refusal to undertake the task of forming a new Cabinet produce a very confusing view of affairs. In the first place it is not easy to understand the cause for Mr. Deliyannis, who has all along led the war party, wishing to tender his resignation immediately after he had committed his country to a very decided policy involving war. It is evident that there was no disagreement between him and the King, else his resignation would have been accepted. We cannot think he has resigned from cowardice, and yet he cannot have done so because the peace party has become too powerful for him. M. Trikoupi, the leader of the opposition, when the bill authorizing the contraction of a loan of 25,000,000 drachmas for military purposes was brought forward in the Greek House, had the courage to say that Greece ought to defend her independence when threatened by the attitude of the Powers, but she should never have recourse to war. In the event, therefore, of the peace party having gained the ascendancy, it is hardly likely that M. Trikoupi, who has already been Prime Minister of the Greek Chamber, would decline the task offered him. The only solution of the position seems to us to be, therefore, that the parties are so evenly balanced as to prevent the old ministry carrying on its work or a new one taking office. And the result of these events is that Greece has been placed in even a more critical position than she would have been had a stable ministry remained in office. According to the constitution of the country, the King can do nothing without legislative authority, and of course without a legislative body there can be no legislative authority. Though Greece has much to complain of, her better policy would have been to have withdrawn her demands and submitted her impatient aspirations for the time being.

The question of nepotism in connection with the Hongkong Government Service has recently been raised by our morning contemporary, which has pointed out the evils of a practice which has existed for generations, not only being filled up by the relations of the Portuguese clerks and others in Government employ without competitive examinations but also to the creation of positions for them. It has been a custom in some of the Government departments for some of the Portuguese officials to introduce their sons and other relatives when they have left school into the offices without salary, merely by way of giving them a knowledge of office work. Gradually these lads have made themselves useful, and been awarded positions, to the exclusion of English and other boys. The *Extrema Oriente* takes up the cudgels on behalf of the system, and claims that the Portuguese, by their special aptitude for office work, their vocation, activity, rapidity, accuracy in executing work, sobriety, punctuality and consideration and respect for their chiefs, are entitled to the preference shown them. We venture to think, without wishing to offend, that the Portuguese are not so universally pre-eminent for all the estimable qualities enumerated by the *Extrema Oriente* as it would have us believe. And we maintain that the English boy should at least have the same opportunities as his favored Portuguese rival for developing these qualities. With regard to a case of this nepotism mentioned by the *Daily Press*, viz., the appointment in the Money Order Office, we believe the lad has been in the office three years. Of course, he has learned a great deal of the office work and is justly entitled to get the post now created. The proper solution of the difficulty would be to let in no probationers except after a competitive examination. That would be fairer and more in accordance with British principles.

The following is the order of the day for Friday's meeting of the Legislative Council:—

1. To resume consideration in Committee of the Bill entitled The Spirits Licence Ordinance, 1885.
2. Third reading of the following Bills:—  
(a.) A Bill entitled An Ordinance for preventing the sale or taking on board Ship of Spirituous or Fermented Liquors, and for punishing persons having about Ships for the purpose of selling such Liquors, or of conveying them on board.  
(b.) A Bill entitled The Reformatory Schools Ordinance, 1885.
- (c.) A Bill entitled The Harbour Regulation Ordinance, 1885.

In view of the recent discussion on the newspaper bill in this Colony, the following paragraph from the Singapore *Free Press* may be of interest. Of course, the objection raised here was never put forward by the opponents of the bill. In the lengthened absence of the proprietor, his attorney or sub-editor ought to be held responsible:—

Judgment was pronounced last week by the Court here in the case of Dr. Angelo Huet, an attorney for Mr. D. Buxton Huet, Editor of the *Chinese Daily Press*, for publishing an article sent by the latter gentleman from Paris, and which was considered as defamatory to the King. The Court condemned the defendant to three months' imprisonment and to pay the Court costs. The judgment will be appealed against, and all the newspapers here and over the whole of Java, which have come to my hands since, stigmatize the judgment as being perfectly contrary to the terms of the press law for Netherlands India, firstly because, according to that law, only the registered Editor is acknowledged as such by the law, and not the printer, and secondly, as no crime can be committed without evil intention or design, and as in the opinion of the Court itself, the accused had no tholpe, but was bound, even against his conviction, to publish in the above-named paper the article sent to him for that purpose by his printer. The resignation of Mr. Deliyannis' Ministry, the refusal of the King at first to accept it, its ultimate acceptance, and Mr. Trikoupi's refusal to undertake the task of forming a new Cabinet produce a very confusing view of affairs. In the first place it is not easy to understand the cause for Mr. Deliyannis, who has all along led the war party, wishing to tender his resignation immediately after he had committed his country to a very decided policy involving war. It is evident that there was no disagreement between him and the King, else his resignation would have been accepted. We cannot think he has resigned from cowardice, and yet he cannot have done so because the peace party has become too powerful for him. M. Trikoupi, the leader of the opposition, when the bill authorizing the contraction of a loan of 25,000,000 drachmas for military purposes was brought forward in the Greek House, had the courage to say that Greece ought to defend her independence when threatened by the attitude of the Powers, but she should never have recourse to war. In the event, therefore, of the peace party having gained the ascendancy, it is hardly likely that M. Trikoupi, who has already been Prime Minister of the Greek Chamber, would decline the task offered him. The only solution of the position seems to us to be, therefore, that the parties are so evenly balanced as to prevent the old ministry carrying on its work or a new one taking office. And the result of these events is that Greece has been placed in even a more critical position than she would have been had a stable ministry remained in office. According to the constitution of the country, the King can do nothing without legislative authority, and of course without a legislative body there can be no legislative authority. Though Greece has much to complain of, her better policy would have been to have withdrawn her demands and submitted her impatient aspirations for the time being.

The Sandakan correspondent of the Singapore *Free Press* sends the following for the information of such of its readers as may feel interested in the gold discovery reported some months ago:—I am informed on very good authority that the presence of payable gold, which Captain Beeson was sent to examine, has been satisfactorily proved. Advice of the 29th ult. from the Segura River state that payable gold has been found and better finds were expected further up the river.

Mr. Labouchere's proposals for the reduction of Ministerial salaries have been placed on the notice book of the House of Commons. The propositions are to take away 3,000, from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, leaving them in possession of 2,000, per annum. The salaries of officials in the House of Lords are also threatened by Mr. Labouchere, who will move the following resolutions:—*Resolved*, That the salaries of the Clerk of Parliament, 5000; Assistant Clerk 3000; Black Rod, 5000; Yeoman-Usher of Black Rod, 3000.

Sir John Lubbock the other day declared at the Mansion House that an epitaph in a Norfolk churchyard expressed the feelings of the great majority of our shopkeepers:—

There is a poor woman who always was tired. For she lived in a world where no man was required. When not for her, she said, 'I'm going where there's no need for me, and no need for my services. I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever.'

Thousands upon thousands of our countrymen and countrywomen, said Sir John Lubbock, share the feelings of the poor woman in Norfolk. A study of popular hymnology would probably confirm this conviction. There are whole scores of hymns about heaven which express only one thought, that of 'doing nothing for ever and ever, to the accompaniment of stammering music from golden harps. What a comment it is on the rush and wear and tear of English life that the banish people in the whole world—for in this respect English and Americans are at one—should regard as the crown of their existence a condition of glorified inactivity but little removed, so far as action is concerned, from the Nirvana of the Buddhist!

There is an amusing story of 'servants' grumbling.—A padre hearing much extra noise in the 'servants' quarters' before proceeding to reconnoitre, arranged himself with a quaker notion, and found a nest of them from close-packed houses on Princeps Bukit. Like a good soldier, he cornered them by standing at the threshold, made them deploy by single rank and file, and as they marched out, saluting him, each received a stroke of the rattan. This is a classical theory of suppression.—*Singapore Free Press*.

The Java *Bode* of the 15th April calls attention to the following case which will attract the attention of insurers and shippers:—Not long ago, there left Samarang half laden for Surabaya the Norwegian ship *President*. She arrived there about the middle of November last. At Samarang she had been furnished with a certificate of seaworthiness by Lloyd's Surveyor. When she arrived at Surabaya to take in the other half of the cargo, it was found out that the vessel was leaky and the shipper gave notice of this circumstance to the insurers. The latter thereupon refused to admit of insurance on the cargo, saying that it was taken in on board. The result was a lawsuit which was decided by the High Court of Justice of the Netherlands India as follows: 'On behalf of the vessel a certificate had been produced at Samarang which testified both shipper and insurers. During the trip from there to Surabaya no mishap befell the ship, so that the shipper, notwithstanding the fact that the vessel now appears to be leaky must go on loading, or if he does not do so must pay the already advanced freight. It is therefore evident that this judgment cannot fail to do great harm to insurers.'

The advertising columns of the *Free Press* were the other week made use of for the perpetration of a silly and heartless joke. Shortly before going to press that journal received, accompanied by a postal order for the price of one insertion, the following advertisement:—*Wanted, one hundred for export, for Chorus.* Only experienced persons need apply. Good salaries and expenses paid on tour. To commence immediately in London. Half salaries rehearsing. Apply, any day this week (except Saturday), to Mr. E. J. S. at the office of the *Free Press*. The request for its insertion was signed 'W. Forbes Capel, Manager.' In the hurry of going to press the official at the head of the advertising department failed to remark the incongruity between the tone of the advertisement and the address at which applicants were invited to call themselves and the consequence (says the *Free Press*) that on Monday last large numbers of ladies of the ballet and female choristers were seen wandering their way towards the residence of Sir Henry Hawkins, who lives at the address in question. The neighbourhood was thrown into a state of wonder and surprise; and the proprietors of the club in Pall-mall excited much curiosity amongst the inmates. It was not until Sir Henry Hawkins's butler had seen and dismissed several hundreds of these shamefully tricked young ladies that it became known amongst the constantly increasing crowd that the advertisement was a hoax of the most stupid and cruel kind.

The Sandakan correspondent of the Singapore *Free Press* has the following regarding the late Mr. Buxton Huet, who recently returned here from Europe and who has now rejoined the Surveyor General's Department, to which he formerly belonged:—Among the victims of retrenchment is Mr. James A. Sampson, our capable Superintendent of the British North Borneo Company's service who is working against the best interests of their shareholders, when they dispense (on the ground of economy) with their most useful and capable officers, of which Mr. Sampson was one of the principal. The Sandakan 'on leave' which may be of a permanent character. The Court of Directors are working against the best interests of their shareholders, when they dispense (on the ground of economy) with their most useful and capable officers, of which Mr. Sampson was one of the principal. The Sandakan 'on leave' which may be of a permanent character. 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